

DATE: February, 2006  
TO: Authorized Representative/Food Service Director  
FROM: Dean Flaws, Food Distribution Consultant  
SUBJECT: 6F (April) Release

**PLEASE ROUTE TO FOOD SERVICE DIRECTOR**

1. **6F (April) Commodity Order Form** has been enclosed in this mailing. You may Fax, or use the Internet when ordering for 6F. **Please do not mail, the turnaround time is too short. Return orders ASAP.** April deliveries will start during the 2<sup>nd</sup> week of April. Thank You!
2. **Summer Food Service Program (SFSP)** order forms have also been enclosed in this mailing. Please fill out the order form and return to this office ASAP. This is only for the schools who have already expressed an interest to be in the Summer of 2006 Food Program. These order forms must be faxed back. These commodity food items will be shipped to schools during their regular April deliveries by Keck, Inc.
3. **Summer Camps 2006** There will be no camp deliveries for Iowa sites in the summer of 2006. A very limited supply of commodities is in surplus at the warehouses. If a surplus in Bonus commodities develops, the program may be available in the summer of 2007.
4. **Deletions for 6E (Feb/March) Deliveries:**

Tomato paste	Cancelled the rest of the year
Sweet potatoes	Cancelled the rest of the year

When deletions and/or reductions are made on a delivery several factors may be involved. The manufacturer may be having production problems and will be delayed in getting to Iowa warehouse. A processing manufacturer may be able to only produce a limited supply during this delivery cycle. Another factor could be that we (State of Iowa) ordered product for a particular ship period, but USDA didn't make the purchase for the product (usually because of too high of prices). We apologize for any inconvenience this may cause your school district.

5. **Preference Survey:** We appreciate those who were selected to submit a completed survey taking the time to fill it out. The advisory Council will review them at the February 24<sup>th</sup> meeting. Results will be forwarded to the USDA Regional Office in Denver, Colorado. The Food Preference Survey results are also on the bureau web page under news.
6. **Keck deliveries** will usually be able to make it to your schools regardless of adverse weather. Anticipate them to come to your school even if you start late or have dismissed for the day.
7. **The State of Iowa** has shipped a truck load of NFD milk to the Schrieber Cheese company. If you have a local vendor that distributes Schrieber Cheese products to your school you may be eligible for a reduced price on these products.

8. **When ordering your commodities over the Internet** be sure to click “**UPDATE**” after you have entered your numbers. You can click “**UPDATE**” as many times as you want. Once your numbers have been locked in, the last thing you click is the “**CERTIFY**” button.

9. **CLARIFICATION OF ENTITLEMENT VS. BONUS**

Under the USDA’s Commodity Distribution Programs, commodities donated to states fall into one of two categories: ENTITLEMENT COMMODITIES AND BONUS COMMODITIES.

**ENTITLEMENT COMMODITIES**

Commodities that, by law, USDA must provide to the States. These commodities are supplied in limited amounts, and FNS (Food and Nutrition Services) is mandated to ensure that a certain dollar value of commodities be distributed to each State. Under the NSLP (National School Lunch Program), the amount of entitlement commodities sent to each State is determined by the number of meals served to children during the school year. In the 2005-2006 school year, states were entitled to receive .1750 cents in entitlement commodities for each meal served.

**BONUS COMMODITIES**

Bonus commodities are those commodities which USDA makes available under its discretionary authority to dispose of surplus commodities to prevent waste and spoilage. FNS is not mandated to allocate a prescribed amount of bonus commodities to each state, and states are not limited in the amount of bonus commodities they can receive. Bonus commodities do not count against entitlement commodities due a state or against school balances. However, the types and quantities of bonus commodities available change from year to year.

10. **Damaged/Shortages on a Release:** On any release, if there are damaged products or shortages it is necessary that the driver initial such items. When there is a driver’s initial on the release, proper credit will be given on the invoice amount. All items should be checked carefully at the time of delivery. An over/short paper report should also be sent to the STATE OFFICE.
11. **Also available on the bureau web site** is a copy of the USDA commodity foods available for schools for the 2006-07 school year. These items are just what USDA expects will be available. Some products might not be offered. See [www.state.ia.us/educate/ecese/fn/commdist/news](http://www.state.ia.us/educate/ecese/fn/commdist/news).
12. If you have any commodity questions please give us a call at:  
(515) 281-4751, Mary Jo Clark  
(515-)281-4032, Dean Flaws

Sincerely,

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Mary Jo Clark, Commodities Assistant (515-281-4751)  
Bureau of Food and Nutrition

Enclosures